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A NEW
PRACTICAL ESSAY
ON
CANCERS:

CONTAINING,

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| <p>I. An Account of their Nature, Causes, and different Species.</p> <p>II. A Detail of the general Method of Practice, commonly called rational or palliative.</p> <p>III. A Description of the Remedies proposed by some</p> | <p>as Specifics, but found to be either dangerous, or ineffectual; with Remarks on the same.</p> <p>IV. Is annexed the most safe, efficacious, and only certain Method of Cure, founded on Reason, and confirmed by Experience.</p> |
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To which is also added,

A new, more safe, and efficacious Method of
ADMINISTRING HEMLOCK;

By J. BURROWS, M. D. /t

LONDON:

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THE
OFFICIAL
OF
CANCER



ADMINISTRATIVE

BY J. B. W. S. M. D.

LONDON

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P R E F A C E.

THOUGH the science of physic, through the indefatigable study and assiduous application of learned and ingenious men for many ages past, is arrived to a very eminent degree; yet the utility resulting from former discoveries, not only proves the extent of its art, but amply justifies every laudable attempt to render it more universally curative.

Physic, indeed, unhappily labours under the same disadvantage with many other sciences, (I mean, with respect to promoting its improvement by beneficial discoveries) from the discouraging insinuations of bigotted professors,

feffors, who, through a narrowness of genius, or indolence of disposition, ever pursue the beaten path, and superciliously censure, as almost presumptuous, the very proposal of a new method of practice, in cases the most difficult, and till then deemed incurable.

Such is the prevalence of conceit on the one hand, and avarice on the other, that many persons, who, either through merit or good fortune, have acquired a degree of fame in the profession, arrogate to themselves the highest praise, and such a precedence, as not only to lay a restraint on others, but, by their public writings, discountenance farther investigation of medical knowledge, as if, according to their *ipse dixit*, the *materia medica* was at its *ne plus ultra*.

To deter men of an inquisitive turn of mind, from pursuing the bias of
their

their genius, they have industriously given out, that if there is a particular malady incident to the human species, for which no certain remedy has hitherto been discovered, such circumstance, will furnish a number of pretenders, not only to have studied that malady, but also to have discovered its specific remedy; at the same time they censure skilful physicians, and endeavour to disparage them on every occasion.

To all this they add, that through the number of persons afflicted, and consequently desirous of trying every method proposed for their relief, those who have hardness enough to offer their discoveries to the public, will never want proper objects for the purposes of deception.

But this manner of reasoning can refer to empirics alone, and, by no means, respects the studied and ex-

perienced physician, whose incumbent duty it is, from his very function in life, to traverse the ample field of medicine, and render publicly useful whatever, in the course of his practice, he has found of salutiferous effect.

Permit me, on this occasion, to observe, that to discourage researches in the medical art, is repugnant to reason, the nature of things, and universal experience, as well as preventive of the most important good to mankind, which is health of body; for if succeeding generations had implicitly followed the practice of physic as used in its infant state, what must have been the fatal, unavoidable consequence? How many of our fellow creatures would daily groan under pains irremediable, and languish under diseases incurable?

However great might be the number of remedies now in use; medicine
would

would not have been yet overloaded, if physicians had not given into the practice of combining them together in a thousand forms, and of making a prodigious number of different compositions of them. Thus by stretching this kind of study beyond all reasonable bounds, for want of proper specifics to fix the uncertainty of opinions and practice, physic is turned into a fluctuating *polypharmacy*, consisting of various and innumerable recipes, generally received, and so far admired, as to bear the name of elegant prescriptions; but, in fact, are often found to consist of ingredients more contradictory than efficacious,

Above all, to justify and even applaud the learned and ingenious enquirer, it may be hinted, that nature inflicts no disorder on mankind, for which she has not provided a remedy; and consequently, that if there be a disease incurable, it is not because

there is no remedy, but because that remedy is not discovered.

And as lord Bacon observes in chap. xx. The subject of medicine (man's body) says he, is of all other things in nature, most susceptible of remedy; but then that remedy is most susceptible of error; for the same subtilty and variety of the subject, as it doth afford a large possibility of cure, so does it give great facility to error. Wherefore as the art (especially as it is now managed) may well be placed among the arts that are most of all conjectural, so the enquiry into the same, may be reckoned one of the most difficult, and therefore ought to be the more exact.

But while mean and fordid souls have weakly, though too successfully, attempted to prevent the investigation of the most extensive as well as beneficial science; noble and generous

rous minds have ever recommended and encouraged, not only its general study, but a peculiar application to those distempers, which have most baffled the skill of physicians; in consequence of which, it is well known that cures have been effected, though long before deemed impracticable.

There are many instances upon record, which prove the vast success of discovery in the healing art; and therefore indisputably shew the absolute necessity of continual researches.

Among others, the first appearance of the venereal disease, is a most evident case: so defective were physicians in those days, through want of experience resulting from discovery, that that disease raged like a pestilence; for we read, that after several penalties were enjoined to prevent its spreading in the city of Paris, an edict was published by the provost,

provost, at the instigation of the physicians themselves, warning all infected persons to quit the city, on pain of being cast into the river Seine, and there drowned, as infected with a pestilential disease ; this desperate resource being the only means, by which they could hope to extirpate that so much dreaded distemper*. This severe decree was put into execution, till, at length, nature's antidote was happily discovered in the use of mercury ; Paracelsus being the first of all mankind, who, by his experiments, altered the face of medicine, and turned chemistry into medical use.

The most eminent physicians have likewise encouraged, both by their example and recommendation, the constant pursuit of such an extensive study, particularly the learned Dr. Boerhaave—Phyfic, says he, is no science

* *Vide Astruc on the Venereal Disease, chap. xv.*
formed

formed A PRIORI; it is no production of the human mind, framed by reasoning and deduction: it took its rise from a number of experiments casually made, without any expectation of what followed, and was only reduced into an art or system, by laying down the axioms (or all the general *truths*) which the particular experiments of physicians and others had hitherto demonstrated, comparing the effects of such experiments, and observing the uniform tendency thereof: and the whole body of such *universal* truths, collected from all the *particular* ones, is what we call the theory of physic: so far then as a number of experiments agree to establish any undoubted truth, so far they may be considered as constituting the doctrines of physic.

Again, from infinite observations and experiments, it evidently appears, that the truths of physic are none of them

them deduced A PRIORI, from any abstracted contemplations of the mind; but collected A POSTERIORI, from innumerable experiments casually made.

Thus supported by universal experience, as well as the opinion and example of the learned, I cannot be awed by the sophistical arguments of any writers, merely to apologize for their own ignorance, and deter the assiduous from the investigation of that knowledge, which they have sought in vain: the following ESSAY is therefore laid before the public; who are not to be biaſſed by the parade of a name or title; but will censure or approve, according to the maxims of truth and reason.

The present disease, which has been the peculiar object of my study during a progress upwards of twenty years through France, Italy, Turkey, and the Levant, has been
gene-

generally deemed incurable, and the ordinary methods of treating it proved upon the whole little more than palliative. Hence, I am certain, I shall not be exempt from the censure of many, who deem this malady incurable, if I venture to pronounce it curable; which I hope to render sufficiently evident, not only from the theory in the course of this work; but by the certain success of my own practice, which, while it meets with the blessings of the afflicted, can abide the strictest examination of the learned.

From the prevalence of scirrhus and cancerous disorders, and their various treatment with so little success, I determined most assiduously to apply myself to the study of the peculiar nature of the same, and the most probable means of finding out a specific remedy. In order to this I perused the best writers on physical subjects
in

in all ages, reviewed the practices of the most eminent physicians, tried every expedient, and made the most minute observations from a great variety of experiments, during the course of several years constant practice.

But all this served only to confirm my opinion, that all the methods yet pursued were, as before observed, little more than palliatives or temporary reliefs.

Thus baffled in the use of every medicine hitherto used and recommended, I had, at length, recourse to amputation, but found that method of practice as ineffectual as the former ; I have, indeed, the satisfaction to find some of the most eminent physicians coincide with my opinion concerning extirpation in general : among others, is Dr. Monro, a celebrated professor at Edinburgh, as appears from the following case.

On

On the first of June, 1764, there was a consultation concerning the case of a young lady afflicted with a cancerous disorder in her breast: Drs. Monro, Rutherford, Cullen, and Austin were present; Dr. Monro said he never advised extirpation; for out of two hundred patients who had had their breasts amputated, he had only seen three complete cures.

Thus being convinced that no certain method of cure of genuine cancers has hitherto been employed by physicians, at least, the general want of success, in the common treatment too plainly discovers, that any effectual method is very little known, I therefore concluded, that the pursuit of an effectual remedy for that most afflicting disorder, was worthy of all the care and pains I could possibly bestow upon it. Nor did I decline the study; for still persuaded of the truth of the abovementioned maxim, that every disease

case has its antidote, I persevered in its enquiries and experiments, in the course of my Travels, till at length, my labours were amply compensated by a fortunate incident. In my progress through the Levant, I met with an Armenian physician, who practised there on cancers with most astonishing success. On my hinting to him the superior efficacy of his medicine to any I had ever known, both in my own practice and that of others, he generously imparted to me the valuable discovery. I made trial of it on several patients under his inspection, both in schirrous and cancerous disorders, and found its efficacy answer my utmost expectations.

In order to extend the utility of the remedy imparted to me, I as generously communicated it to some foreign physicians of eminence, from whom I learn from daily information, that they practise it with as much success in other

other countries, as I do in England; either by dissolving schirrous tumours, or bringing them to a laudable suppuration; as well as eradicating and perfectly curing recent, yet confirmed cancers, without repelling the humour, or danger of its invading the nobler parts; which no other remedy was ever known to effect, as will appear in a book of cases, which I design to publish hereafter: and for further satisfaction, any gentleman of the faculty may examine my patients before I begin with them, visit them under the operation of the medicines, and see the event.

In order to justify my pretence, I have, in the first place, particularly shewn the source and progress of schirrous and cancerous disorders, as conducive either to explain, or illustrate the nature and history of the disease; next I have laid down the general and particular treatment of other practitioners, with some observations on the same; and,

and, in the last place, I have subjoined what I found to be almost infallibly attended with success in the cure of those distempers, and which I take more immediately to respect the theory of the disease, and effectually correspond with the quality and efficacy of the medicines used therein.

In stating which things, however my opinion may differ from others, I do not mean thereby to weaken their credit, nor reflect upon their diligence. And though I might claim some favour for the pains I have taken, yet I desire only such encouragement, as upon trial of the medicine I shall be found to deserve.

A

A NEW
PRACTICAL ESSAY
ON
CANCERS.

IN the following Treatise, I shall set forth a practice founded on rational principles, studiously avoiding all trifling speculations, such being calculated solely for mere amusement, as they no ways concur with what ought to be the main intention of our salutary profession; namely, that of relieving our fellow creatures from those bodily calamities, pain, and distempers, which are the proper objects of our art.

In this our present inquiry, it may therefore not be amiss to follow the method of practice physicians observe, when they would inform themselves of the condition of a sick

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person,

person, in relating first the symptoms which commonly attend the disorder ; secondly, in discovering the causes which might occasion or produce them ; and lastly, in enumerating the consequences of its continuing, and the effects of an improper cure ; and how all these inconveniencies thus observed necessarily flow from the duration of the disorder, under the circumstances of nature, and endeavours for curing it.

Thus for the right understanding the nature and cure of a cancer, it is necessary that its causes and symptoms be judiciously investigated, accurately, fully, and methodically explained. I shall therefore, agreeable to method, in order to enable the reader to attain a just idea of our present subject, begin with a description of a schirrus, the origin and source of a cancer, and examine and trace it in its progress to its ultimate malignant state.

But before I proceed, a previous account of a morbid tumour will, I apprehend, greatly conduce to a further elucidation of the

the matter. To this intent I shall use my earnest endeavours to communicate what I have experienced in a long and successful treatment of cancers (both at home and in foreign parts) with that exactness which is due to truth, and that sincerity which is natural to every candid writer.

C H A P. I.

Of a MORBID TUMOUR.

A Morbid tumour is a preternatural elevation or eminence rising above the level of the circumambient or neighbouring parts, from a collection of some humour retained in any part, contrary to the order of nature; and consequently is deemed a real disease.

Thus when any part of the human body is, by an afflux of some humour, swelled or increased beyond its natural bulk, it is called a tumour. This species is named

humoral, and of such only I shall here treat.

Tumours of this kind are either sanguine or lymphatic; the first is caused by fluxion; the second by congestion. A tumour caused by fluxion, is that which is raised at once, or in a very small space of time, by reason of the fluidity and retention of blood; and a tumour by congestion, that which is produced by degrees, and almost insensibly, by reason of the lentor and spissitude of the lymph. The causes are either internal or external, as will be described in the course of this work.

Inflammatory tumours are of the sanguine kind, as the phlogosis, erysipelas, and phlegmon. These as they proceed from the same cause, namely a sudden repletion of blood, are nearly similar, differing only in degree of inflammation, of which hereafter.

Indolent or insensible tumours are of the lymphatic species, as the œdema and schirrus. These have also their gradations; and

of these I shall treat more particularly, as being the presage and basis of a cancer.

The pathognomonic, or inseparable signs of an inflammatory tumour are heat, pain, tension, renitence, pulsation, and redness. These symptoms are all essential, but not always found in the same degree of intensity.

The essential characteristics of a schirrous tumour, are hardness, renitency, resisting the touch, indolence, changes not its natural colour, and has no particular heat. These diagnostics likewise have their variations.

Tumours both sanguine and lymphatic have also their accidental differences, which proceed from the diversity of cause, their nature, similitude, and situation: a description of which being not so material to our present subject, I shall omit as unnecessary.

Tumours are likewise simple, or complicated; benign, or malignant; universal, or partial; perfect, or imperfect; large, or small; legitimate, or spurious; circumscribed,

ed, not circumscribed; systrophic, or occult; or ulcerous, opened, and confirmed. They have also their periods, as commencement, encrease, state or consistence, diminution or resolution; and they often terminate in a schirrus and cancer, a gangrene or mortification; each of which in the sequel will be explained in its proper place.

CH A P. II.

Of the PHLEGMON, or INFLAMMATION.

EVERY part of the body is subject to repletions of blood from its circulation * followed by swelling, tension, redness, heat, and pain of the place affected; and which

* It is certain that the circulation of the blood was known to the antients, as evidently appears from Xenophon's description of the anatomy of the human body in his *Απομνημον*, l. 1. c. 45. ed. Oxon. and also from Plato's description of the same thing in so unparalleled a manner, in his *Timæo* passim; which for the reader's satisfaction I here insert, as quoted from the great Longinus.

“ Την μὲν κεφαλὴν αὐτῷ φησὶ ἀκρότατον ἰσθμὸν διὰ μέσον διωκο-
 “ δομῆσθαι

which even bring on fever, when they are very considerable. All these kinds of repletion are called in general inflammatory tumours. The Greeks have named this kind of tumour φλεγμονή, i. e. incendium, because of the heat which accompanies it; the Latins, for the same reason, have called it inflammatio; in English and French both these appellations are used, but that of inflammation is the most common; and it is distinguished, according to the degree of the disorder, into the phlogosis, when the symptoms are slight; and phlegmon, or inflammation, when the symptoms are more prevalent.

This

“δομῆσθαι μεταξύ τῆ εἰδὸς τὸν αὐχίνα, σφονδύλης τε υπερερίχθαι
 “φυσὶν οἷον εροφύγας καὶ τὴν μὲν ἡδονὴν ἀνθρώποις εἶναι κακὴν δέ-
 “λιαν, γλῶσσαι δὲ γευσίως δοκίμιον· ἀναμμα δὲ τῶν φλεβῶν τὴν
 “καρδίαν, καὶ πηγὴν τῆ περιφερομένη κατὰ πάντα τὰ μέλη σφοδρῶς
 “αἵματος, εἰς τὴν δορυφορικὴν οἴκησιν κατατιταγμένην· τὰς δὲ
 “διαδρομας τῶν πόρων ὀνομαζει· σινωπὴς, τῇ δὲ πηδῆσει τῆς καρδίας
 “ἐν τῇ τῶν δεινῶν προσδοκίᾳ καὶ τῇ τῷ θυμῷ ἐγέρσει, ἐπειδὴ διαφυ-
 “ρος ἢ ἐπικερία μνησινώμενοι, φησί τὴν τῷ πνεύματος ἰδέαν ἐμφύ-
 “τευσαι, μαλακὴν καὶ ἀναιμαίαν καὶ σφραγῆς ἐντός ἔχουσαν, οἷον ἄλλα
 “μαλακόν, ἢ, ὁ θυμὸς ὅπου ἐν αὐτῇ ἀκμάζει, πηδῶσα εἰς ὑπὸ καὶ
 “μὴ λυμαίνηται καὶ τὴν μὲν τῶν ἐπιθυμιῶν οἴκησιν προστίπει ὥς
 “γυναικωνίτιν, τὴν τῷ θυμῷ δὲ ὥσπερ ἀνδρωνίτιν· τοι γὰρ μὴ σπλῆ-
 “να τῶν ἐντός ἐκμαγείον, ὅθεν πληρῆμενος τῶν ἀποκαθαιρομένων
 “μέγας καὶ ὑπερὸς αἰξεται· μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα σαρξὶ πάντα αὐτά,

This tumour has four periods. Its commencement and augmentation, that is, when the symptoms we have mentioned are begun, and continue to encrease; its state or consistence, when the accidents remain in the same degree; diminution or resolution, when they begin to decline, and the tumour dissipates gradually.

Sometimes instead of resolution, a supuration happens; in which after the symptoms are in the highest degree, the tumour dissolves, and forms an abscess or imposthume, a middle state betwixt resolution and gangrene: at other times, which is still worse, in the very state of the disease,

“ Φησί, κατισκιάσαι ἀνδρὶ, τὴν δὲ σὰρκα προβολὴν μὲν καυμάτων, προελημα δὲ χιμαῶν, ἑστὶ δὲ πνεύματων, οἷον τὰ ψιλλὰ ἰσισθαι, σώμασι μαλακῶς καὶ κρᾶως ὑπὸ πνεύματι νομῆν δὲ σαρκῶν ἴφην τὸ αἷμα, τῆς δὲ τροφῆς ἕνεκα, φησί, διαρχετύσαντο τὸ σῶμα, τίμνωσις, ὥσπερ ἐν κήποις ὀχετεῖς, ὡς ἐκ τινος νάμαλιν ἐπιόχου, ἀραιῶν οὕτως ὡς αὐλῶν τῷ σώματι, τὰ τῶν φλεβῶν εἶναι νάμαλιν· ἥνικα δὲ ἡ τελευταία παρὰ τὴν λυγρὰν φησί τὰ τῆς ψυχῆς, οἷον ὡς πύργον μὲν εἶναι τὴν αὐτὴν ἐλευθέραν.”

“ The head of man he calls a citadel. The neck is an isthmus placed between the head and the breast; the vertebrae or joints, on which it turns, are so many hinges; the heart being the source of the veins, and the fountain from whence the blood arises, and briskly circulates through all the parts of the body, is disposed as a tower completely fortified

ease, the tumour grows black, subsides, becomes indolent, and a gangrene supervenes, and soon after a sphacelus or perfect mortification.

Phlegmon or inflammation is external or internal; external, when it occupies the exterior parts, as the breasts, armpits, &c. internal when it seizes upon the *viscera*, or some other inward part. It is to be distinguished by the pulse as soon as it raises to any considerable degree; by anatomical knowledge; by the respective complaints of the patient; and by the known analogous state of exterior inflammations.

Fever is another essential symptom of inflammation, especially if great and internal, some-

“ fortified on all sides. Afterwards (proceeds he) the blood he
 “ calls the pasture of the flesh; and adds, that for the sake of
 “ nourishing the remotest parts, the Gods opened the body
 “ into a number of rivulets, like a garden well stocked with
 “ plenty of canals, that the veins might by this means (mean-
 “ ing the anastomoses between the veins and arteries) receive
 “ their supply of the vital moisture from the heart, as the
 “ common source, and convey it through all the sluices of the
 “ body, &c.”

By this description it is evident the circulation of the blood was first known to the ancients; and perhaps, the moderns took the hint from the illustration to revive the old system, and thereby claim and arrogate to themselves the pretension of a new discovery, particularly Celsus and Harvey.

sometimes it precedes the inflammation, and contributes to produce it; and sometimes it depends on the same cause which produced the inflammation: but when these circumstances fail, at least, it always succeeds the inflammation, however inconsiderable it may be; because the disorder alone, which the inflammatory repletion makes in the oeconomy of the circulation, must bring it on, even independently of the other circumstances which may conduce to it.

Sometimes it is circumscribed, that is, limited; and sometimes not circumscribed, that is, when its limits are undetermined, and end in degradation. It is *syftrophic*, when it tends to suppuration, and not *syftrophic*, when it tends to resolution.

There are criterions sufficiently certain, to determine on the different kinds of inflammation; and as there are three other species of principal tumours, namely *œdema*, *erysipelas*, and *schirrus*, there must result particular combinations from the concurrence of each of those tumours with inflammation,

inflammation. Thus it may either be simple or complicated with some of them, which constitutes different species of inflammation, erysipelatous inflammation, oedematous inflammation, and schirrous inflammation.

The breasts of women are subject to inflammation, at least, as much as the other parts of the body. If it spreads over all the breast, it is then universal, which is, however, very rare; sometimes it is confined to one part of it, and it is then partial.

It is thus, that a judgment is made of the swelling and tension of this part, from the space which it occupies; from the resistance perceived there; from its heat; from its redness, and pain. To these symptoms, which essentially belong to the inflammation of the breasts, several others are commonly joined; which, although less essential, claim, nevertheless, considerable attention; as the suppression of the breast-milk, when the inflammation happens in child-bed women; or of the menses, when it

happens during the time they ought to flow.

The theory of the causes of inflammation is necessarily reduced to fixing the causes which may give rise to the repletion of the blood vessels of the part affected; to its irruption or deviation, into the collateral lymphatics; and to the extravasation of some of the blood, which is made by the laceration of the sanguine, or lymphatic vessels, and diffused in the texture of the parts. The first produces a simple phlogosis; the second a common inflammation; the third, a sytrophic inflammation. These three causes are subservient to each other, in such a manner, that repletion brings on irruption, when it is too great, or lasts too long; and that both produce extravasation in similar circumstances.

There are then three principal classes, which include all the causes of the inflammation of the breasts; and nothing more remains wanting in order to the thorough elucidation of this theory, than to enumerate

rate the particular causes, which may alone produce inflammation; and they produce it more certainly, in a greater degree, and with more danger, when they combine with any of the antecedent dispositions that augment their power, or which dispose the breasts to be more affected by them.

These antecedent dispositions are of two kinds; the one universal, and dependant on the quantity and state of the blood; the other partial, and relative only to the particular state of the breast and its vessels.

The general antecedent dispositions are a plethora or too great plenitude of blood; the rarefaction of it, or its disposition to rarify, which is equivalent to a plethora; to which ought to be added the too great use of wine, spirituous liquors, immoderate walking, violent passions, such as anger; too strong exercise, sudden cold, unexpected fright, or violent grief, *exorbitant animi agridudo*; excessive hot seasons, &c. because all these causes either introduce a

too great rarefaction into the blood, or make it circulate with too much impetuosity.

The local, or particular antecedent dispositions, are, natural laxity, or want of due elasticity in the contexture of the breast, which occasions its failing of power, to press out the blood; obstructions; schirrous stagnations; schirruses of the breast, or of some of its parts, which turn the course of the blood; the varicous dilatation of the vessels, which facilitates the stagnation; the particular defect of some part of the breast, which may happen to be bruised, wounded, torn, compressed, ulcerated; &c. so that the blood can scarcely circulate with freedom.

It is only by weighing the nature and degree of each of these dispositions, and by duly considering the combinations they may have, with the different causes of inflammation of the breasts, that we can approach to a just estimation of the degree of inflammation; and that we are enabled to treat of the danger that attends it, and of the con-

consequences, against which precautions are to be taken.

The inflammation of the breast is certainly very dangerous. The danger that attends it may nevertheless vary, according to many different circumstances, which have been already enumerated in the foregoing symptoms.

Method of Cure.

THERE are three principal intentions that should be proposed in the treatment of the inflammation of the breasts. 1. To put a stop to the progress of the repletion in the vessels; to diminish that which is already made; and, by this means, to prevent the progress of the inflammation, and mitigate the violence of that which already subsists. 2. To relax the constringed fibres of the breast; to diminish, or wholly to remove, the strangulation of the capillary vessels, and to prevent the course of the circulation from being obstructed. 3. To quiet,
or

or mitigate the pain, which aggravates all the symptoms, and which is the principal cause of the constriction of the fibres of the breast.

The first of these intentions is the most urgent and the most consequential. It is only to be effected by bleeding, and that according to the degree of the disorder, and the habit and strength of the patient. There are several ways of effecting the second intention: and consequently those may be selected, which are judged to be most agreeable to the particular circumstances that occur; or, if it be approved of, they may all be tried successively, according to the exigence: internally, as emollient and cooling ptisans, or emulsions; externally, cataplasms, emollient fomentations, embrocations, &c.

To fulfil the third intention, recourse must be had to the use of the relaxing and anodyne topics, which have been proposed for the second intention; and the use of them must be persisted in without remission,

sion, till the part is freed from the tension, by which means a diminution of the pain is generally procured; if not the use of narcotics, which become necessary, when simple relaxants are not found sufficient. But they are given only in very little doses, which are repeated every fourth or fifth hour; in such manner, that the quieting, or, at least, mitigating the acuteness of the pain, may be brought about, without throwing the patients into a dosing state.

General precautions to be observed in the treatment of the inflammation of the breasts.

THE patients must be kept in bed in the most still manner possible. Moreover, silence and ease of mind must be recommended to them; as these circumstances are very necessary for the cure. The patients should also be nourished with very weak broths, made with veal and chicken; or, what is more proper, they should be confined to simple chicken water. It would be still bet-

ter to boil in these broths or water some cooling plants, unless the reducing them to the form of an emulsion, with the cold seeds, should be preferred. However strict this regimen may appear, and however weak the patient may be, it should be invariably observed, for the first four or five days : but there should not be allowed any beef, till there be a certain proof that the resolution is begun.

When the pulse grows weak, endeavours must be made to reanimate it, by mild cordials ; which are diaphoretic, and proper to excite a breathing sweat, that relaxes the constricted parts : but, nevertheless, there must be great circumspection in the use of these cordials.

After the first days, when the vessels are freed from the constriction, by a sufficient number of bleedings, and the pain of the inflammation begins to subside, means must be used to empty the first passages, by apozems made of softening and emollient herbs. These slight minoratives are the only

only means to surmount, or, at least, to diminish, the paroxysms, which make the greatest danger of the disease; as they threaten the breasts with a fresh repletion, when they are great. When the resolution is perfect, or much advanced, the patient should take for some days together, twice in the day, that is, in the morning and evening, broth, or apozems. It is proper also to purge the patient a little more effectually.

Observations on the foregoing practice.

OPINION has been a long time divided, with relation to the place where it is proper to bleed, in the inflammation of the breast; a skilful physician will, from the symptoms and circumstances, and a proper attention to the doctrine of evacuation and revulsion, soon determine the preference.

Aeginetus and his followers have recommended the giving no food in inflammatory cases, during the first three or four days:

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it is certain very little nourishment should be taken by a patient in a case so acute; and with respect to this, every body is agreed.

There are cases undoubtedly, where the patient may, and ought to be, confined to a little ptisan, for the first days; but I am not of opinion it should be made a general rule; and I suspect that the dogmatical decision of Aeginetus is less the fruit of his experience, than the consequence of his prejudice in favour of the system of those, who made this severity in diet the common basis of their practice. Moreover, a fresh supply of good chyle brings into the blood a cooling, anodyne, and balsamic quality; and, by its diluting the juices, prevents spissitude and acrimony.

Formerly many physicians applied to the inflamed breast astringent and repellent topics actually cold, or such as were prepared with vinegar; and, as they abated at first the ardour of the inflammation, the patient perceived for the present a sensible relief from them: but this slight success should

should be no inducement to imitate this practice, of which the consequences are dangerous; because they thicken the blood, and contract the fibres of the part affected; upon which they immediately act, and thereby injure the circulation, which augments the inflammation, retards the resolution, and often brings on a gangrene, suppuration, or schirrus. It is for this reason, as the real good of the patient should always be preferred to their momentary and delusive ease, none but warm topics, and such as are proper to relax, attenuate, and remove constriction, should ever be applied.

C H A P. III.

Of the SCHIRRUS of the BREASTS.

THE schirrus of the breast is a kind of tumour, which has five essential characteristics; 1st, It is hard, renitent, and

resists

resists the touch; 2dly, Indolent or insensible, even when pressed; 3dly, It does not change the natural colour of the part, till it becomes more profound, larger, and then often turns livid; 4thly, It is gradually formed, by way of congestion; 5thly, It has no particular heat more than what is natural.

The Greeks have called this tumour *Σκίρρως*, because of its hardness; for *σκίρρος* signifies properly in Greek a piece of marble, *fragmentum marmoris*; the Latins have used the same name to describe it; and from them we adopt the same appellation.

Schirrusses are common to all the parts of the body, both internal and external, particularly the glandular parts, as being those which separate the thick humours; and it is easy to judge from thence, that the breasts, the liver, and the uterus, must be peculiarly subject to them; which experience confirms.

It is proper to distinguish the different kinds of schirrusses; because it has some effect on the prognostic that should be made.

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The schirrus extends, sometimes, over the whole compass of the breast, and is then called universal or total: but it is more frequently confined only to one place, and then bears the name of partial.

A more important difference results from the degree of indolence and resistance. When the schirrus is very hard, and resists the touch, and at the same time insensible, even when pressed, it bears the name of a perfect, legitimate, or complete schirrus. They are called, on the contrary, imperfect, illegitimate, or incipient schirruses, when the resistance is not perfect, and they preserve some feeling at least when pressed. The schirrus is often attended, at its borders, with œdema, or inflammation; and then it bears the name of œdematous schirrus, or phlegmonic schirrus: whereas it is called simple, when it has only the characteristic of a schirrus, without œdema, or inflammation. In the breast the volume of the schirrus is easily distinguished, and then it is said to be circumscribed. But when it lies

deep, the extent is not to be distinguished in the same manner; and, in such case, is said to be not circumscribed.

Moreover, the legitimate, or perfect schirrus, and even sometimes the illegitimate or imperfect, tumefy, and are painful, and subject to shootings more or less frequently. These schirruses become then carcinomatous, and of a lead colour, the skin which covers them being as it were marbled with varicous, livid, or black veins, forming angles or protuberances; and degenerate into cancers, as will be shewn in the chapter on cancers.

The causes of a schirrus in the breast are all those which create a spissitude in the blood, or in some other of the humours that are circulated in the part, or are separated there, when they are obstructed, accumulate, and grow thick, so as to produce a hard, indolent, and resisting tumour. But as there are only three humours that circulate in the breast, the blood, the lymph, and the milk, the production of the schirrus of the

the breast must therefore be attributed either to the collection of blood, to that of the lymph, or to that of the milky humour, which thickens there. But it is apparent, that it cannot be attributed to the collection of blood. 1st, Because such collection is always attended with heat, and there is none in schirruses. 2dly, Because this collection is never made without a sensible augmentation of the red colour of the part; and in the schirrus the part preserves its natural colour. 3dly, Because the collection of blood is made suddenly, and by the way of fluxion; whereas the schirrus is formed gradually, and by the way of congestion. Therefore every thing being duly considered, the schirrus of the breast commonly arises from the collection of lymph, that stagnates and thickens in its own vessels, which kind ought to be called lymphatic; or from the collection of milk, which is detained in its own vessels; and being accumulated there, grows thick, which ought to be called milky.

: If this is the breast, which is the case. These

These principles laid down, nothing more is wanting to explain the schirrus of the breast, than to examine the causes which may produce it there, or which may occasion this collection of lymph, or breast-milk. But these causes are of two kinds; some general and efficient, which, by thickening these humours in the blood, render them subject to be retained in the breast; the others, particular and occasional, which determine these thick humours to stagnate, particularly in the breast; and to produce a schirrus there by preference.

The general causes capable of producing the thickening of the lymph, and of the milk, in the mass of blood, are all the known causes that thicken the blood itself; as, 1st, The too great quantity of food which is eaten, or the vicious or gross nature of that chosen; 2^{dly}, Faultiness of digestion, the general consequence of intemperance, or of bad diet; from whence it proceeds, that the blood receives only an ill prepared chyle, which thickens it:

it is 3dly, The uneasy passions of the mind, with which the patient is strongly affected for a long time, that weaken the circulation of the blood, and consequently thicken it; 4thly, The vicious ferments with which the blood is infected, such as venereal, scorbutic, or scrophulous ferments.

Under the general or remote causes may also be comprehended, whatever impedes the ingress of a due supply of chyle into the blood, to recruit, and keep the same in its proper state of fluidity; such are obstructions of the mesenteric glands, or rupture of the lacteal vessels; hence, for want of sufficient moisture, ensue a siccity of the juices, and a glandular consumption, attended with a dry and clammy mouth; copious and continual discharges of the incrementitious or excrementitious humours; as immoderate evacuations by stool, urine, or perspiration; which, by constantly draining the serum, renders the blood spissid and acrimonious.

But these causes do not produce any scirrhus in the breast, unless there be occa-

sional, or local causes, which determine the lymph or the breast-milk to stagnate there in particular. In the number of these causes may be reckoned, 1st, The inspissation which may happen to the lymph, and to the breast-milk, when the patient has had commerce with a man injured by some venereal taint, or by suffering an infected child to draw the nipple. 2^{dly}, The use of topical applications too cold, or astringent, that have been imprudently employed to mitigate pain. 3^{dly}, The sudden contraction that exterior cold causes in the breasts, when too much exposed to the air; or when the women are so imprudent as to dip their hands in cold water, during the time of their menses, or lochia. 4^{thly}, The undue tone of the breast, whether it be natural, as in women of a soft and lax formation; or caused by blows, or contusions on the part. 5^{thly}, Finally, the obstructions formed of a long time in the breast, which there impede the circulation of the lymph, and the discharge of the

breast-milk. These obstructions are common to women who use that blameable practice of repelling the breast-milk to prevent suckling.

I am sensible, that it is no easy matter to persuade some mothers to suckle their own children: however, it is incumbent on us to use our endeavours to induce them to perform this important duty, where it is not inconsistent with some present disorder. But if natural affection, and the innumerable inconveniencies to which the mother exposes her child by refusing to suckle it, are not prevalent to do this indispensable duty, let her but consider, that by changing the natural course of her milk, she draws upon herself many diseases; such as abscesses, schirrous, and cancerous tumours; which are worse than any thing that can possibly happen to her by suckling her children.

It remains then that schirruses arise either from a fault of the lymph, or from a defect in the recrementitious or excrementitious

mentitious humours, which are separated in the different viscera, and, in reality, are the general causes that equally act on all the parts of the human body; but which are afterwards determined to produce scirruses in particular places, from different circumstances. Thus a coagulation of the milk brings on scirruses in the breasts and womb; a spissid bile creates a scirrhus in the liver; an inspissation of the splenic lymph, engenders the scirrhus of the spleen; the pancreatic humour, that of the pancreas; the chyle, that of the mesenteric glands; the lymph, that of the conglobated glands.

The concurrence of some of these different causes produce, at first, a slight collection, which scarcely merits any name, except that of repletion; but this repletion increases gradually, by the continuance of the same causes; and, in increasing, becomes daily more hard, and more resisting. It is thus that a scirrhus is formed by progression, insensible, or at least very slow; till

till at last, the tumour, after being concealed, makes itself known by its symptoms.

Method of Cure.

SCHIRRUSSES in general are to be treated in two different manners. First, to endeavour the cure of those which are recent and imperfect, of a moderate size, that happen in women otherwise of a good constitution, and in health, and in whom the menses suffer no disorder: wherefore I shall deliver the curative treatment which should be adopted on these occasions. Secondly, I shall speak of the treatment merely palliative, which is proper in the contrary cases, and to which prudence demands a confinement of the practice, as in schirruses that are of too long standing, perfect, legitimate, of very great magnitude, and which happen to women who are of a bilious, cachectic, or ill habit of body. Thirdly, I shall add some reflections on the manner that is proper to be pursued

when there is the least reason to suspect the schirrus threatens to degenerate into a cancer. Finally, I shall enumerate some particular remedies that are proposed for the cure of this disorder.

Whenever there is occasion to resolve tumours so hard as schirruses, it is requisite, 1st, To dilute the mass of humours, and render them more fluid, in order that they may have the power of liquefying the matter which forms the schirrus. 2dly, To mollify at the same time, and relax the tension of the schirrous part, in order to give greater liberty to the rarefaction of the indurated matter, by the use of the most efficacious aperitives and dissolvents. Finally, to strengthen the elasticity of the part, and set all its fibres in an oscillating motion, capable of procuring the extrusion of the liquefied schirrous matter, and of promoting the resolution of it.

To effect these four intentions, the following remedies should be employed, as being most efficacious in this case. First

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the blood and lymph are to be attenuated and diluted by the use of broths, apozems, ptisans, or whey: in which may be dissolved, at discretion, some of the following aperitive salts, *flores martiales*, *tartarum vitriolatum*, *ens joviale*, or *terra foliata tartari*. The roots of *eringo*, wild *fuecory*, fresh millipedes, or the depurated juice of chervil, may be occasionally added to the above liquors.

If the blood be acrid, and that the *schirrus* is supposed to arise from a scorbutic or scrophulous cause, asses, goats, or cows milk, should be drank, at least, once every day, with some essence of minerals, or the solution of antimony put therein. This new discovered chymical preparation of antimony is the best antiscorbutic yet known. The patient should also, if the season permit, drink mineral waters, particularly those which are esteemed excellent in schirrous and cancerous disorders. I must own, from experience, that I have found the virtues of some of

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the English waters, equal, if not superior, in these cases, to any foreign spaw, or mineral waters, that ever I met with in my travels.

If the tumour is supposed to proceed from a venereal infection, mercurials prudentially and cautiously are to be administered, both internally and externally. Ethiops mineral, prepared by deflagration, is greatly recommended, as it neither purges nor excites a salivation.

In order to mollify and resolve the schirrus, and relax the too great tension, cataplasms, and fomentations of my discutient liniment, are to be applied to the part affected; it being the most powerful dissolvent and antischirrous remedy ever yet known. During the course of the foregoing remedies, several attentions must be had. The *first* of which is, to bleed the patient from time to time, particularly when the menses are suppressed, or have ceased. The *second*, to purge now and then, in order to evacuate the humours, and particularly the bile, that the medicines

medicines may have dissolved. These remedies should be insisted upon more or less, according to the urgency of the occasion; for in a disease of so great moment as the schirrus of the breast, nothing ought to be neglected. It is from the foregoing pathology, and method of cure, that my practice has been attended with such extraordinary success in schirrous complaints.

It is evident from experience, that nothing hitherto of sufficient efficacy for perfectly dissolving schirruses has been discovered by physicians: yet there are many pretended specific remedies now daily recommended for that purpose; the chief of which I shall here enumerate.

The first are the hemlock and the nightshade, which are boasted for the dissolving of schirruses; and if it were true, as is pretended, that these plants cure cancers, there would be reason to regard them as excellent dissolvents: for a schirrus can never be cured, unless the humour that forms it can be sufficiently dissolved, to

be capable of being dissolved, or brought to suppuration, which can be the effect only of more powerful dissolvents, as we have already mentioned, and will be farther illustrated in the following chapter.

The next are antimonial pills. It is certain that antimony contains many excellent virtues: but these are greatly confined while that mineral remains in a solid indissolvable state, whether natural or chymical; for in this solid form it becomes not only oppressive and hurtful to the stomach, by its asperities and weight, but cannot with safety and ease exert its efficacy on the mass of blood; and, in such a form, it is now rejected as a specific. Therefore a flattering presumption should not be had of the certainty of curing schirruses by antimonial pills, and much less should it be promised to the patient; and as Dr. Boerhaave observes in his Chymical History of Antimony, that that mineral when added in the lump, or grossly bruised, to diet-drinks, it seems to communicate very little virtue,

virtue, or scarce more than a common stone thereto; and, consequently, must expect as little of its salutary quality to be imparted to the human body when given in the solid form of pills, &c. yet, when taken in a liquid manner, it becomes an admirable medicine to cleanse the body and purify the blood, (as Dr. Boerhaave and Dr. Huxham rightly observe and justly commend): and, indeed, its medicinal properties are exceeding great, when given in a liquid form; for, by its attenuating quality, it opens all the obstructions of the viscera, more effectually than any other medicine whatever: and schirrous cases themselves give way to it. I have seen surprising cures performed by its means, particularly in schirrosities, and even in that of the liver, which it gradually dissolves, and wears away with ease and safety, as acting without acrimony.

The constituents of antimony, notwithstanding a late pretension to a new discovery of its componants, were well known

both to the ancient and modern physicians; namely, 1st, Common or external sulphur; 2dly, Philosophic or internal sulphur, which renders metals friable; 3dly, Metal, of which is made its regulus; whereof, if cups or drinking-vessels be cast, the wine that is put in them will become emetic; and of this regulus cast in small moulds, are also made those commonly called antimonial pills, which being swallowed will operate considerably by vomit, by which violent strainings, they become dangerous in schirrous and cancerous complaints. Thus antimony, as well as other noble medicines, by falling into the hands of empirics, lose both their utility and reputation.

The third is mercury. As this remedy is known to dissolve ganglions, nodes, and exostoses, there was reason to believe, that it might dissolve schirruses in like manner. But experience has long since shewn, that the action of mercury extends only to schirruses produced by a venereal cause; and

and, in this case, it may be employed with confidence. But I have never seen any effect, or, at least, never any but such as were inadequate in schirrous tumours, which took their origin from scorbutic or scrophulous causes.

The *fourth* pretended remedy are caustics. Some physicians and surgeons not knowing that the properties both of mercury and antimony are specifically confined to particular maladies, rashly conclude on the uncertainty of these medicines in dissolving schirruses; and, in reality, are of little use, when indiscriminately given in these complaints (an effect which ought to be attributed rather to the misapplication of these minerals, than their want of efficacy to remove the primitive efficient cause of the distemper, when administered judiciously and relatively to the disease;) wherefore those practitioners substitute caustics in order to extirpate the tumour. But, alas! after cruelly tormenting their patients, they meet here with equal disap-

pointment. Moreover, the operation is not only severe and unsuccessful, but tends to enrage the disorder.

Learned and experienced physicians being convinced from repeated trials, and the testimony of practitioners, unanimously affirm, not only the inefficacy of the foregoing pretended specifics, but that no other remedy has been hitherto discovered either in the mineral, animal, or vegetable system for dissolving schirruses; therefore they confine their practice to the palliative treatment, which consists only in checking the progress of the disorder, and mitigating the symptoms. These two intentions they endeavour to effect by the following remedies.

1^{stly}, Bleeding in small quantities from time to time, when the pulse appears full, or the schirrus is painful; especially, when the menses fail by suppression, or cessation. 2^{dly}, To purge the patient now and then with gentle cathartics, incapable of heating or irritating the bowels. 3^{dly},

3dly, Dissolvent, diluent, and humectant medicines. 4thly, Proper regimen, moderate exercise, and tranquility of mind; and care should be likewise taken, that they do not catch cold, or if that should happen, to moderate and quiet the cough; or, by the use of pectorals and narcotics, to hinder the bad effect, which the schirrus may suffer by violent fits of coughing.

The topics are cataplasms, made with linseed, the pulp of the boiled roots of white briony, wild cucumber, dwarf-elder &c. formed into a cataplasm, which is to be applied upon the tumour, and to be renewed occasionally; or the application of dissolvent plasters, as of hemlock, nightshade, gums, &c. This is called the palliative cure, which affords only a temporary relief, whilst the disease continues its progress.

I shall here omit to speak of illegitimate schirruses, as being tumours very different from the true sort; but which resemble them so much, especially in the beginning, as to impose on the patients; and even
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sometimes on physicians, under whose care they fall. Such are the steatoma, meliceris, atheroma, sarcoma, and scrophulous tumours. They are very small, and imperceptible in the beginning; yet they gradually grow, so as to acquire a considerable bulk; and may by accident, under certain circumstances, be inflamed, turn to abscesses and ulcers, or become schirrous and even cancerous.

CHAP. IV.

Of a CANCER.

A Cancer, in general, is a schirrous tumour, which, by a successive progress, becomes exquisitely painful, and attended with shootings, as it were, now and then darting; which is called *dolor lancinans*.

In order to know the causes, that occasion a schirrus to degenerate into a cancer,

cer, it is proper to examine gradually and minutely the changes which happen to the schirrus in this case. First, the schirrus becomes painful and subject to shootings, more or less acute, particularly when handled. The schirrus swells, and enlarges faster than at other times; and, in enlarging, it changes its form and figure, becoming unequal, rugged, pointed, and angular; in Greek called *πρωχουδες*, in Latin *scabrosus*. Some of these angles become daily more pointed, and more projecting; and the skin, which covers them, grows in proportion, more red, smooth, and distended. The principal pain, and almost all the shootings of the cancer, tend to these angles or protuberances, which germinate in abundance; and the whole of the disorder seems to be concentrated there. The cancer in this state bears the name of confirmed, but occult cancer.

At last, the skin, in consequence of being stretched by the tumefaction of the cancer, cracks and bursts; which change extends
itself

itself soon to the body of the cancer, that cracks and bursts in the same manner. From the cracks or fissures, there ouzes an ichorous serum, that increases gradually. The colour of the skin, which covers the schirrus, changes also, and becomes by degrees brown, marbled, and of a lead or livid colour; and, in short, the schirrus seems surrounded with large black veins, resembling the claws of a sea crab. Whence the Greeks gave this sort of tumour the name of *καρκίνος* or *καρκίνωμα*, and the Latins that of *cancer*. It continues to grow, and becomes every day more deformed and hideous.

When the cancer is divided, its edges invert or turn outwards; and open more and more, without any apparent cause. In this state, it is called an open or running cancer. The shootings and pains go on continually increasing, in the same manner as the opening; and the cancer, instead of a true *pus*, affords nothing but a *sanies*, that is very fetid and cadaverous. There are continually

tinually generated, from the body of the cancer, or its edges, a spongy, sprouting, and rotten flesh, which soon becomes putrid, and falls off, and which is daily renewed by a kind of vegetation. All the parts which join to the cancer, or are near to it, participate of its symptoms; for if it be in the breast, the axillary glands are affected, irritated, inflamed, and often ulcerated from the cancerous humour, which is there conveyed by the *vasa torifera*, or lymphatic vessels of Bilsius. Lastly, a slow fever is joined to this number of other evils: and the paroxysms or exacerbations are more or less acute, and more or less durable, according as the cancer is bigger or less; as the humour it affords is more or less putrid, the pains it causes are more or less violent; and the state of the blood is in its nature more or less depraved.

That all the preceding symptoms of a cancer may appear, it is reasonable to think, that the schirrous or obstructing matter

matter is rarefied; otherwise the growing cancer could not so suddenly swell, and become so large as we observe it: but this rarefaction is irregular. It is thus, that plaster tempered with water, swells and extends itself, in proportion as it hardens. It is thus iron filings, mixt with urine, and pounded garlick, form a mixture that tumefies in growing hard; and it is thus, that the solutions of metals, and of salts, form, by raising themselves, kinds of vegetation. Such a fermentative quality I admit in the schirrous matter.

We likewise observe various other fermentations, and surprising phenomena, produced in the human body, by the *miasma* of pestilential diseases, and the poisons of different animals; as that of the viper, tarantula, &c. but particularly in the hydrophobia, where the human nature seems partly to be transmuted into the canine species, as appears from the barking and sympathetic aversion to water.

Miserium genus morbi, in quo simul aeger
et

et siti, et aqua, metu cruciatur. Cel-
sus.

Differences of Cancers.

CANCERS are distinguished into recent or incipient, and into inveterate or confirmed. The cancer is incipient, when the schirrus becomes painful, and attended with shootings at great intervals, without the form of the tumour being apparently changed. It is confirmed, when the shootings are more frequent, and the tumour has changed considerably its form, and is changing it daily. The cancer, whether incipient, or confirmed, is concealed or occult, so long as the tumour preserves its intireness, without any division. It is open or ulcerated, when the tumour is divided, let it be ever so little. The cancer is malignant, when it is attended with great pain, and violent symptoms; and it is kindly, when the pain is more supportable, and the symptoms not so bad. Lastly,

cancer comes from an internal cause, when it depends on the depravity of the blood, without any external cause, that has given rise to it; or, at most, with a very slight external one; and it comes from an external cause, when it may be attributed to some accident; as a stroke, contusion, or bruise, &c.

Hence it follows that cancers are incipient, or confirmed; benign, or malignant; proceed from internal, or external causes; with respect to the part affected; as the liver, spleen, womb, and private parts of both sexes; the breasts, the lips, tongue, tonsils, uvula, nose, eyes, the skin, &c. all which demand an early care and attention; otherwise the disorder will carry off the patient rapidly in excruciating pain; especially, when the cancer is ulcerated in a great degree; very painful and subject to great shootings; changed in its figure much, and still changing continually, attended with frequent hæmorrhages, malignant, and happening in women of a bad habit

habit, who have no menses, or have them irregular.

With relation to the causes which produce a cancer, it is material to observe, that they are precisely the same with those in which schirruses turn to cancers. The first is, by the increase of the natural heat of the blood, by a general plethora, by a fever, or by heating aperitive medicines; the improper use of spirituous liquors; heating diet; acrimony of the juices; immoderate watchings; over great exercise; violent passions; suppression of the saline excretions, as the bile, urine, perspiration, &c. which powerfully irritate and rarefy the schirrous matter. The second is, the increase of heat in the schirrus itself, by some particular cause, as inflammation; frequent contrectation or handling the disordered part; the use of heating and dissolving remedies, imprudently applied, as plasters, caustics, &c. And lastly, by some contusion, compression, blow, or wound on the schirrus; whence it earlier degenerates into a cancer.

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Cure

General method of treating Cancers.

A S all eminent physical writers and practitioners ingenuously affirm, that no specific whatever (from the days of Hippocrates, four hundred thirty-two years before Christ, down to this present time) has been discovered for the radical cure of confirmed cancers, the palliative method, therefore, is the only one now by them recommended; and is confined to the four following intentions: 1st, to diminish and retard the progress of the disorder, by internal remedies: 2dly, to produce the same effects by proper external remedies: 3dly, to quiet, or, at least, to mitigate the violence of the pains: 4thly, to remove the hæmorrhages that come on too frequently. These indications they endeavour to fulfil by an exact regimen; bleeding at proper intervals; purging the patient from time to time with gentle cathartics; diluting and cooling broths; diuretic ptisans; chalybeated whey, and mineral waters; asses, goats, or cows milk, if the stomach can bear

bear such diet; and there can be no better remedy against the hæmorrhages, than the application of styptics. The only means of effectually assuaging the pains are narcotics prudently administered; lastly, if there be proofs, or strong presumptions, that the cancer is venereal, the patient should be put under a course of mercury skilfully managed. But mercurials have no effect at all, when the cancer is not venereal; and proceeds from other common causes, as the scurvy, struma, or external injuries*.

Specific remedies proposed by some authors for the cure of Cancers, but bad, or suspected.

THE first is mercury and mercurial preparations, particularly the *mercurius dulcis* or calomel, greatly boasted as a specific in the cure of cancers by Dr. Buckner, in his thesis *De medicamentorum mercurialium usu in cancro*, maintained at Hall, in 1755.

* Dr. Storck is of the same opinion, and shews the inefficacy; see *case* 1. and 9.

Dr. Gmelin supports the same practice in his dissertation, intituled *Specifica methodus recentior cancrum curandi*, printed at Tübingen, in 1757.

Dr. Sanchez, a physician of eminence in Moscow, recommends the corrosive mercury sublimate, dissolved in spirit of wine; which, in fact, is the same with that which Boerhaave has intimated in his Elements of Chymistry, part the third, *Processu* 198. and which Dr. Van-Swieten has made public.

This remedy was in use at Paris a long time before, as observed in the third volume of Dr. Astruc's Treatise on the Venereal Disease, in French; and, a much longer time since, in Siberia, among the Ostiaks, who inhabit it, as captain Muller has recited in his Relation of the Manners and Customs of the Ostiaks, printed at Berlin, 1720, who used it to cure the Neapolitan or French disease.

Thus far these gentlemen might have success in cancers, which proceeded from a venereal cause, as mercury is the real specific

cific for that disorder ; but not in cancers which arise from other causes.

I must here observe, that corrosive sublimate is a very violent poison, and proves mortal in the quantity of a few grains ; nor will it, though ever so finely levigated, dissolve in spirit of wine ; yet its points may be somewhat blunted thereby. The experiment is easily tried ; for if spirit of wine and sublimate be put into a vial and shook, the liquor will become cloudy ; and if suffered to stand for a while, the sublimate will precipitate or fall to the bottom undissolved ; and, consequently, will still retain a corrosive quality, as its sharp, saline spiculæ are not completely broken by that menstruum, nor rendered sufficiently mild, and fit for internal use. Hence it follows, that those persons who take sublimate for the venereal disease, either in brandy, diet-drinks, or pills, as it is now practised, are subject to anxieties, palpitations, and *marasmus* or bodily decay. This practice is reckoned pernicious and blameable ; there-

fore it ought not to be employed internally, since there are safe, gentle, and effectual preparations of mercury for the cure of that malignant distemper.

The effects of this poisonous corrosive sublimate when taken, are violent gripping pains, with a distension of the belly, vomiting of slimy, frothy matter, sometimes mixed with blood, and stools of the same; an intolerable heat and thirst, with cold sweats, tremblings, convulsions, &c.

The next mineral poison that has been externally employed for the cure of cancers is arsenic. Its deadly effects are nearly similar with those of sublimate corrosive; for the salts there, together with the mercurial particles, do compose pungent chrystals; so, without all doubt, the regulus of this mineral gives a like force to the saline bodies, which without this weight could be but of small effect. The main difference is, that in arsenic we have an addition of sulphur, which does not only strengthen the action of the other parts, by binding and
keeping

keeping them together ; but, consisting besides of many hot and fiery corpuscles, promotes the inflammation of those wounds which the saline spicula make in the breast, and other parts where applied.

It is surprising what should induce practitioners to employ arsenic for cancers, unless it was the hopes of dissolving them by caustic remedies. I know that many authors have spoke of this practice, and have quoted the success of Fuscius's powder, which is a composition of arsenic, snake-root, and foot. Some others, among whom is Etmuller, propose the powder of lizards and toads calcined ; to which, to render it more active, add a little orpiment, black pepper, common salt, and dry foot. Others again praise arsenic mixed with balsam of sulphur.

Dare any one venture to apply caustics of this nature to any part of the body, especially to those near the heart, or large vessels. Moreover, it is to be feared, lest the cancerous humour, which is a sort of inter-

nal caustic, might be fermented and expanded by the motion of the external caustic, which being conveyed into the mass of blood, cause fatal accidents. I remember here of a terrible catastrophe related in John Fernelius, first physician to Henry II. of France, of a woman who had a cancer in her breast, to which was applied a composition of arsenic and sublimate corrosive: she died in six days after the application in shocking agonies; such as happen to persons who swallow these poisons.

Caustics are always of a malignant nature, more or less, according to their preparations and mixtures; and are always dangerous and pernicious in cancers. Even Fuscus, that famous reputed curer of cancers, being convinced of the fatal effects of his arsenical powder, conscientiously abandoned the same: and it is to be wished that the cancer practitioners in this metropolis, who are said to use this powder, as a caustic, would entirely reject and abhor it as pernicious; then we should not have those melancholy

choly accounts of so many miserable patients lingering in pain, and dying in torment.

Having thus particularly discoursed of the nature of these two poisons, I shall not need to insist upon any more out of the mineral kingdom.

The next remedies proposed for curing cancers, are poisonous plants, the same as for schirrusses. The first of these is the nightshade, or *bella donna*, othewise *solanum furi-
osum*, or *solanum melanocerasos*, that Linnæus calls *atropa*. Even to the present, this plant has been regarded as a poison; and the bad effects of it are attested by Schenckius, Paulli, Webster, Lusitanus, Albrecht, and others.

Dr. Alberti, professor of physic, however, maintained at Hall, in 1739, a thesis, *de bella donna tanquam specifico in cancro, presertim occulto*. And is allowed by the date of this thesis to be the first who proposed the *bella donna* or nightshade, as a specific against cancers, when taken inwardly. As to the leaves and juice of this
plant,

plant, externally they have been a long time used as a topic in the open cancers, to alleviate the pains.

Dr. Lambergen, professor at Groningen, is the second physician who has administered the *bella donna* internally, by the persuasion of Dr. Winter, professor at Leyden. He has given, in detail, the process for preparing it, with the variations which happened in the treatment, in an inaugural discourse, printed at Groningen, in 1754, under the title of *Leetio inauguralis sistens ephemeridum personati carcinomatis*. His authority was sufficient to engage some gentlemen both here and elsewhere to try the effect of the medicine. But the want of success in their trials, and the number of persons, who, at this time, suffer and languish under this fatal disorder, and the silence that is now kept with respect to the efficacy of this plant, has made me judge, as well as from my own experience, that the consequence has not answered the hopes they have conceived. And, indeed, Dr. Buckner, who wrote

wrote a year after Lambergen, says, in express terms, that the nightshade so much praised, does not cure cancers effectually, nor is it to be administered with safety. In these circumstances, prudence demands that a remedy should be forborn, as experience has not established better effects; and the more, although it was used in very small doses, it did not fail, according to Dr. Lambergen, to produce every time accidents that were bad enough, though not lasting; and as the vertigo or giddiness which it caused, went, sometimes, so far as to affect the sight.

The other plant that has been proposed for the cure of cancers, is the hemlock, *cicuta*; but the terrestrial hemlock, which it is necessary to distinguish from the aquatic, is meant. A better opinion did not formerly prevail of this plant than of the *bella donna*; and it was regarded in the same manner, as being a poison. Such was the common sentiment of the ancient physicians, as Celsus, Dioscorides, &c. and the greatest

greatest part of the moderns. And Dr. Storck himself says, that by rubbing on the end of his tongue a drop or two of the milk, which oozes out of the fresh root, when cut into slices, it presently after became stiff; swelled and was very painful; and soon after he lost the power of speaking, which greatly alarmed him; but by washing his tongue with the juice of lemon, and by rubbing the end with it, the virulency was abated; he immediately felt ease; and in about two hours, his tongue regained its liberty, and all his apprehensions vanished. Had a few drops of this milk been swallowed, it would have given a further proof of its deleterious property, and confirmed the opinion of the ancients with regard to its poisonous quality. However, Dr. Storck, desirous to employ this plant against cancers, dared to try its effects on himself, in imitation of Dr. Lambergen's experiment on the *bella donna*, before he administered it to others. A farther hint of giving the hemlock inwardly, he takes from

from Pliny, who relates that the green stalks of hemlock were eaten by many without injury: and as part of its virulency is taken off by evaporation and concoction in the boiling, such an alteration might, perhaps, have encouraged the doctor, in imitation of others, to make trial of it in the extract.

This poisonous plant was first ordered internally by Hippocrates; and according to Galen, the decoction, the seed, and even the leaves, entered into several compositions. He mentions, amongst others, one in particular; which he ascribes to Apollodorus, and of which he says, that Heraclidus made use to quiet great pains.

Ray tells us, that one Bowles gave the root of hemlock, to the quantity of a scruple in malignant and quartan fevers, and preferred it to all diaphoretics; and that Reneaume, a French physician, administered a scruple or half a dram of hemlock in substance, for resolving the schirrhus of the liver; or gave an infusion in wine, made with

with a dram or two of the root of it, dried in the shade, and reduced to powder.

The description of this plant Storck gives from Morison, vol. iii. p. 290; and the preparation of it is thus: Take of the juice of the hemlock fresh gathered; and let it be inspissated while fresh with a gentle heat in an earthen vessel (often stirring it, lest it burn) to the consistence of a thick extract. Let this extract be formed, with as much of the powder of the leaves as may be necessary, into a mass for pills; from which let them be made of two grains each.

He always began with a very small dose, giving only at first one pill morning and evening. On the third or fourth day, he repeated the same pill three times. After eight days he began to give two pills thrice every day; and by increasing in this proportion, he gradually rose (if occasion required) till it came to a dram, or a dram and a half, in the space of twenty-four hours; and though he gave these pills for a year or two, or more, without intermission, he never

ver observed they did any harm; and I must own, from my own experience, I seldom found them to produce any benefit, unless assisted by other remedies.

The favourable accounts given by Dr. Storck of this plant in his Dissertation, have encouraged many persons both here and in France, to employ it on the same occasions, and have strictly followed the methods stated by him, and have not found any good effect thereby. And, indeed, Dr. Astruc, an eminent practitioner and professor of physic at Paris, says, that the extract of hemlock has been given there for a considerable time, in in all the cases where Dr. Storck had himself given it. There has not, indeed, been any other bad effect found from it, otherwise than to cause a giddiness so as to affect the sight; but the success has not answered hitherto the expectations conceived of it; and Dr. Storck has the candour to own, that he himself failed of doing service to some, even by a long continued course; and that the terrestrial hemlock often failed where the aconite succeeded.

The

The next is the *aconitum* recommended by the doctor, and which Wepfer has described by the name of *cicuta aquatica*, or water hemlock, and of the dismal effects of some children, who, by mistake, did eat of it. The alterations which Wepfer observed the roots of *aconitum* to make in the body, were a violent pain and heat in the stomach, terrible convulsions, with the loss of all the senses, distortion of the eyes, and flowing of blood out of the ears; the mouth so fast shut, that no art could open it; efforts to vomit, but nothing thrown up; frequent hic-coughs, with a great distension and swelling, especially at the pit of the stomach; and when death had concluded the tragedy, a continued running of green froth at the mouth.

This plant, however, has been also prepared and given by Storck in the same manner and quantity as the terrestrial hemlock, and he says it has cured in many cases where the other has failed, which may be seen in several cases, in his Treatise on that plant.

Upon

Upon the whole, Dr. Storck desires he may not be understood in a general sense; nor does he mean to extend the virtues of hemlock so far as to give them the latitude of a specific. For he is not of such an opinion as to believe that these rules are general; and that hemlock ought always to cure. He says, and openly owns, that he has likewise had patients of all kinds to whom likewise hemlock was of no service; although it was indicated from the similitude of the disease.

If any should be desirous to try the effects of these plants in expectation of a cure, it is best to begin with a small quantity; for there are particular constitutions, in which medicines, otherwise extremely innocent, are hurtful. Therefore, to avoid doing mischief in such case; and in order, gradually, to attain a knowledge of the patient's habit, the best way is to proceed cautiously, and with moderate doses.

The next remedy proposed for cancers, are antimonial pills. This mineral, from

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the knowledge of its real constituents by analysis, when given in a solid indissoluble form, can be of no effect in cancers, no more than in schirruses, as already observed; but rather, by its weight and *spicula*, becomes hurtful to the stomach, and cannot be dissolved by any of the animal fluids: whence it can scarce possibly enter the lacteals, to mix with the blood and juices; as the metallic particles lie dormant in its sulphur: hence antimony, in a solid form, is rejected in cancerous cases.

The following corollaries may be inferred; that whatever has been proposed for the curing of cancers, are merely palliative medicines; and that no real specific has been hitherto discovered for that fatal disorder, although the physicians of all nations, from the time of Hippocrates to the present, have, by numberless researches and experiments, made trial of every thing in nature, from the most innocent drug, to the most virulent poison, both in the mineral and vegetable kingdoms; yet the disease still baffles

baffles the power of phyfic; therefore the last remedy proposed, as the only resource, is amputation.

But, alas! how uncertain is that cruel and severe operation; and how few there be who receive benefit from it, as has been already mentioned; that among two hundred who had their breasts cut off, not above three received benefit; for after the operation, the disease generally returns, and rages with more violence. Nor is it always, and on every part, to be performed; nor can it be attempted, if the breast be adherent, or the glands in the arm-pit tumefied and schirrous; nor if the part be near any large vessel; nor if the cancerous malignity has infected the blood. Thus it is plain that no medicine nor art hitherto tried has been of efficacy enough to cure cancers, not even extirpation itself. And it is in vain to expect success from amputation, whilst the morbid matter remains still fixed in the juices; and until that is thoroughly eradicated by the proper specifics, the disease

will break out again either in the same place, or throw itself upon some other part; the cancerous lurking humour, being, as it were, conveyed thither by a kind of *metastasis* or translation of the peccant matter.

Thus having taken a survey of the foregoing practice, and of the several opinions, and remedies proposed, I shall therefore now proceed to give a more exact account of the nature, causes, and different species both of schirrous and cancerous complaints, in order to establish a more universal, solid, safe, and effectual method of cure. I shall also lay down a few theorems, from which may be deduced some practical inferences, shewing the error of giving the latitude of a specific to mercury, antimony, and hemlock, for those disorders in general; and that, by too hastily drawing conclusions too general, from a few particular cases. Yet the peculiar virtues of these valuable medicines are of infinite service when specifically extended only to their respective diseases, as already mentioned,

mentioned, while assisted with my anti-cancerous medicine; a description of which will be given in the following considerations.

The most safe, efficacious, and only certain method of cure, for every species of schirrusses and cancers.

I NOW proceed to the method of cure, which I have used with the greatest success for several years, during a very large and considerable practice in schirrous and cancerous complaints.

There are in these diseases two principal things which merit our particular attention; namely, the antecedent causes of the disorder, and the cancerous matter when formed; I shall, therefore, with respect to the causes, divide cancers into four different species.

First, such as proceed from a venereal infection; *secondly*, those which are produced by a scorbutic, or scrophulous humour; *thirdly*, those that happen from a compli-

cation of the foregoing distempers; *fourthly*, those occasioned by external injuries, the patients being at that time in sound health, and free from any prior disease. Hence it follows, that cancers are either venereal, scorbutic, complicated, or simple.

To fulfil these four intentions, and to rightly adapt the cure, a physician ought to use his utmost diligence and sagacity. If the cancer be judged venereal, I order mercurials, at proper intervals, as the only specific to remove that malignity; if it be scorbutic or scrophulous, the mineral essence or solution of antimony should be then given as a specific; if it be complicated, the above two medicines are to be alternately administered; *fourthly*, if it be simple, or from an external accident, goats milk medicated with hemlock, should be taken, as the only specific for this species of cancers.

The reason which induced me to try an experiment of hemlock on goats, was from what I had met with in the course of my reading, that noxious plants do vary
their

their effects in different creatures, so as to prove harmless, nay, beneficial and nutritive to some, as hemlock is to goats; the strength of the stomach in these animals being sufficient to conquer and divide the corrosive quality of this plant, and their stomach perhaps requiring to be recruited by such warm and active particles. In the season when hemlock is not in its verdure for goats to feed upon, I give the extract dissolved in cow's milk to those animals, which will equally medicate their milk. By that means the virtue of hemlock becomes innocent and efficacious, and far superior to any other of its preparations; nor does it cause those bad symptoms, as giddiness and dimness of sight, which it is wont to do when given to the patient in substance.

The external remedies which I constantly employ in every species of schirruses and cancers, and which are conjointly used with the internal remedies specifically proposed in the foregoing article, for the antecedent causes of these disorders, are my *antischirrous* and *anticancerous* medicines.

The *first*, of which the qualities are admirable, as it relaxes the fibres and membranes of the schirrous part, restores and strengthens their systaltic spring; softens and liquefies the concreted humour; and, by these conjoint means, procures the resolution of it; or brings it to a kindly suppuration: while, at the same time, it operates without any danger of irritating, or inflaming, the disorder, or bringing on a cancer.

The *second*, of which there is no doubt of its virtue, in quieting the violence of the pains, in correcting the cancerous ichor, and bringing it to a laudable suppuration; as also in deterging and cicatrizing the ulcers. Thus by the alternate use of internal and external remedies, the disease is eradicated, and a perfect cure completed, without danger of a relapse.

What has been advanced here on the origin and causes of schirruses and cancers, is conformable to observation and experience; and it may be taken as certain, that these diseases always happen from one

or other of the above causes ; therefore it is easy to conclude how to determine on the specific treatment.

And though I affirm, that no single medicine is independently an infallible specific for all species of schirrous and cancerous complaints ; yet, I am far from a desire of derogating from the peculiar virtues of mercury, hemlock, and antimony, when judiciously given in a proper manner, and with restriction to their respective diseases.

It is from not having made the above distinctions, and the want of knowing a more powerful specific, that Doctors Buckner, Gmelin, Sanchez, Lambergen, Storck, and those who followed their directions, have so often failed in the cure of these disorders.

The success of my practice, confirmed by experience, enables me now to say, that cancers and schirruses are curable in the above method ; and that the efficacy of my medicines are infinitely superior to any yet known, and more extensively beneficial ; therefore, I am convinced that the afflicted

licted will receive considerable benefit by them. The oftener I have administered my remedies, the more I have had an opportunity of admiring their virtues and efficacy; and I often had reason to rejoice, at seeing patients, who were despaired of, and abandoned by other physicians, after trying every remedy, perfectly recovered, in consequence of having used my medicines, which are both innocent and salutary in every degree of age, sex, and constitution, as well as efficacious in all seasons of the year, and in every species of the disease.

We have instances of cures by very simple and unexpected remedies, of distempers which had, till such remedies were discovered, baffled the skill of physicians, the power of medicine, and the art of surgery: witness the viper's bite, by oil; that of the tarantula, by music; of the venereal disease, by mercury; of the scurvy, by essence of minerals; of intermitting fevers, by the Peruvian bark; and, I may add, the dysentery, by the *ipécacouba* and *simarouba*. All which, and
many

many others, were discovered by experience, and were commonly kept as secrets: for which reason, when I heard of any considerable cure performed on cancers, I endeavoured to inform myself of it, and the success which commonly attended the medicine. Thus by investigating medical knowledge, we approximate to a more adequate and curative method.

Would it not then be accusing the goodness and wisdom of providence, who has enriched this world with thousands of means to nourish our bodies and relieve our infirmities, to suppose he has left us destitute of assistance in cancers? Or, is it not more reasonable to think, that amidst the vast variety of remedies he hath created for our use, he may have endued some with virtues and powers to cure this most grievous and fatal distemper?

Having tried every expedient hitherto recommended, in a long and constant course of practice on schirrusses and cancers, I had frequent occasion to observe several things, which

which either did not occur to others, or appeared to them in a different light from what they did to me; the right understanding of which, would, in my opinion, turn to the good of the community; I therefore determined with myself to lay before the public, what I found to be almost of an infallible efficacy in curing these diseases.

A further confirmation of the extraordinary merit and efficacy of my antischirrous and anticancerous medicines, are the numerous surprizing cures performed by them. And to make the above facts appear more evident, the truth may be known, by applying to me, at my house in Berkley-Street, Piccadilly; where the names of the patients may be seen, and the directions for their place of abode; as being persons of credit and veracity, and who can give a full and satisfactory account of these matters, and of the perfect cures they have received.

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